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TELEGRAM

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17 MAR 70 00 15

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ACTION: Amembassy BANGKOK
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Cambodian Sitrep as of 1400 March 16

Fol is Phnom Penh 262 repeated FYI. BEGIN TEXT

1. Following a quiet Sunday, Monday opened with large, orderly demonstration in front National Assembly. Embassy estimates some 10,000 students and government employees participated which has made center of Phnom Penh like a Sunday with its empty streets. Orderly columns converged on Assembly behind banners reading "We do not want Viet Cong or Vietnamese," "Viet Cong - Dirty Hypocrites," Some anti-Sihanouk tracts reported but not seen by Embosffs. Crowd gathered in yard National Assembly and neighboring streets and amused self singing and chanting until 0900 when live broadcast began. After morning of anti-VC/NVN speeches, Assembly has now returned to contraband affair which concerns RKG officials close to Sihanouk.

2. Cambodian Student Union demanded X get VC out of

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REVIEWED BY SublingDATE 10/9/80

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REASON(S)

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Cambodia, stating want independent country and that all Cambodians support student demands. Cheers followed statement. Students thanked by Assembly speaker who said request would be considered and requested students go back to school.

3. AFP release informed that Prince Sihanouk would return March 24. (Comment: Local employee states delay in return result of message from the Queen.) Date also makes sense in that Tuesday is weekly Air France flight from Shanghai.

4. Communique issued by RKG that it and DRVN and PRG representatives ~~want~~ had agreed meet beginning March 16 for settlement of mutual problems. We believe meeting being held at Palais du Gouvernement which protected by troops as of mid-morning.

5. Chicom Embassy has issued a statement to effect that rumors regarding demonstrations against RKG embassy Peking are completely false.

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6. ~~Six~~ Situation in Phnom Penh calm although more troops in evidence around Sihanouk palace of Chamcar Mon which ringed by troops in battle dress with machine guns and mortars in place.

7. Efforts ascertain what if anything RKG and Cambodian military have done prepare for trouble lead one conclude that little has or can be done. All forces on alert and some troops moved toward frontiers to strengthen those already there.

G-2 has also alerted RKG to what many foreign observers consider strong possibility that NVN/VC might attack some Cambodian unit in order give it bloody nose as warning to RKG and in order strengthen NVN/VC bargaining position and perhaps Sihanouk's vis-a-vis RKG. Rives. END TEXT

END

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